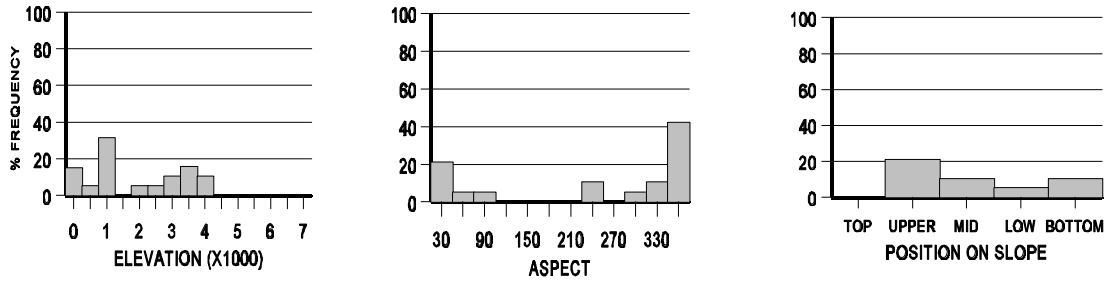
CHLA 12

PORT-ORFORD-CEDAR/PACIFIC RHODODENDRON-SALAL
*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana/Rhododendron macrophyllum-Gaultheria shallon*
CHLA/RHMA3-GASH (N=19; NRCS=10, FS=9)

Distribution. This Association has the widest distribution of the Series. Sites are scattered from the coastal town of Langlois, Oregon, to Number 8 Gulch on the east side of the Illinois Valley Ranger District, Siskiyou National Forest. However, about 80 percent of the sites are located west of the coastal crest.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association is the wettest of the Series, with a mean annual precipitation of 109 inches. It is also among the warmest, with a mean annual temperature of 48 degrees F. A dense shrub layer of Pacific rhododendron, salal, dwarf Oregongrape, and/or evergreen huckleberry often dominate this Association with their high covers.

Soils. Forest Service plot data indicates variable parent material including andesite, basalt, schist, diorite, sandstone, conglomerate, and serpentine. Average surface rock fragment cover is 23 percent, with 12 percent gravel. Soils are moderately deep to deep, with an average depth of greater than 41 inches.



Environment. Elevation averages 1834 feet. This Association is found primarily on northerly aspects. Slopes average 30 percent and range from one to 70 percent. The dominant slope position is upper slope, but this Association occurs on lower slope positions as well.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, intermediate for the series, averages 22 species. The overstory is dominated by Douglas-fir, Port-Orford-cedar is common. The understory is dominated by Port-Orford-cedar with tanoak and Douglas-fir common. Pacific rhododendron and salal occur frequently with dwarf Oregongrape, red huckleberry, and evergreen huckleberry common. Common beargrass often has the highest cover on the site. Moss cover averages 22 percent.

Forest Service data indicate that upper layer tree cover is high for the Series, averaging 70 percent. Mid-layer cover is high, averaging 48 percent while lower layer tree cover averages 42 percent, also high for the Series. High shrub cover is intermediate, averaging 36 percent and low shrub cover is high, averaging 76 percent. Total herb cover is low, averaging 10 percent.

| Common name | Code | Constancy | *Class | Avg. Richness |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overstory trees | | | | 3 |
| Douglas-fir | PSME | 100 | 52 | |
| Port-Orford-cedar | CHLA | 74 | 25 | |
| Understory trees | | | | 5 |
| Port-Orford-cedar | CHLA | 100 | 23 | |
| Tanoak | LIDE3 | 68 | 11 | |
| Douglas-fir | PSME | 58 | 4 | |
| Western hemlock | TSHE | 42 | 18 | |
| Golden chinquapin | CACH2 | 42 | 4 | |
| Sugar pine | PILA | 42 | 3 | |
| Shrubs | | | | 6 |
| Pacific rhododendron | RHMA3 | 95 | 45 | |
| Salal | GASH | 89 | 47 | |
| Dwarf Oregongrape | BENE2 | 74 | 15 | |
| Red huckleberry | VAPA | 68 | 4 | |
| Evergreen huckleberry | VAOV2 | 53 | 29 | |
| Sadler oak | QUSA2 | 21 | 24 | |
| Herbs | | | | 7 |
| Rattlesnake-plantain | GOOB2 | 74 | 4 | |
| Common beargrass | XETE | 63 | 11 | |
| Western sword-fern | POMUM | 58 | 6 | |
| Braken | PTAQ | 58 | 4 | |
| Western starflower | TRLA6 | 53 | 2 | |
| Common prince's-pine | CHUM | 47 | 7 | |
| Little prince's-pine | CHME | 42 | 5 | |

* Percent cover was converted from NRCS dominance ratings as follows:
Dominance Rating = Percent Cover: 1 = 5%, 2 = 15%, 3 = 30%, 4 = 50%, 5 = 70%